Achievements of National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research Centre

4384. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements of National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research Centre in Goa, since the date it was set up, till date;

(b) the details of staff currently employed in the Centre; and

(c) the total annual budget of the above mentioned institution, yearwise ?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The following are the achievements of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research since its inception in 1998 :

—Launched three scientific expeditions to Antarctica one from Goa and two from Cape Town, South Africa.

—Preparatory work for delineating the outer limits of the Indian Continental Shelf under the provision of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

—Organised XI Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programme (COMNAP)/Standing Commmittee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations (SCALOP) and Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Executive Committee Meetings for the first time in the country in September, 1999.

—Co-Ordination and development of annual cruise plans for research vessel Sagar Kanya to support research by the national organisations and universities working on ocean sciences.

—Initiated action on modelling activities related to Antarctic and Southern Oceans.

(b) The details of staff strength presently at the Centre are as follows :

Scientific Staff	—06
Administrative Staff	—26

(c) The total year-wise budget for the Centre is as under :

(Rupees in lakhs)

1998-1999 (Actuals)	1999-2000 (Actuals)	2000-2001 (Actuals)	2001-2002 (B.E.)
1,481.00	1,910.12	2,372.89	4,965.00

Feature of National Institute of Ocean Development

4385. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main functions of the National Institute of Ocean Development;

(b) what are the salient achievements of the Institute in the field of research;

(c) the number of sites located by the Institute in different off-shore oceans, for the past ten years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of benefits derived from such sites during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is a technical arm of the Department of Ocean Development (DOD), established during November, 1993 as an autonomous society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Act. NIOT's functions include technology development in the areas of Ocean Energy, Deep Sea Mining, Coastal and Environmental Engineering and Marine Instrumentation. In addition to these activities, NIOT is also implementing the National Data Buoy programme, Ocean Science and Technology for islands and operation and management of Research Vessels of DOD.

The salient achievements of the institute from its inception are as follows :

—Establishment and successful operation of pilot plant for harnessing energy from sea waves at Vizhinjam, Kerala and converting it into a National Test Facility.

—Installation and Commissioning of 10 cubic metre/day reverse osmosis based desalination Plant at National Test Facility, Vizhinjam.